

Belief is to me what a rudder is to a ship. It controls the path we take in life, and leads us down the path to our destiny. In my case, what drives and steers my 'ship' in life is the belief that everything happens for a reason. People change so that you can learn to let go. You believe lies so you will learn to only trust yourself and sometimes things go wrong and good things fall apart so better things can come together...

Back when I was in Primary 4, I was in Archery. Most people would think "how can such a small built person be in such a sport!" In fact, Weighing in at a mere 25 kilos and standing at a height of 134 cm, even I doubted myself. As much as I was interested, I was afraid to take the first step, to muster the courage to fall and to fail.

When I first started, I was given six arrows to start with. However, out of the six that I was given, I merely shot 2 at the target, 1 at the 3 point ring and the other at the 5 point ring. I remembered looking across the field and seeing others shooting at least 3 to 5 arrows on the board, yet I was the only one who could not do it. I could hear giggles from the people looking at me and some were even pointing fingers. Then, the coach came to tell me that the reason why my arrows missed then the board was because I didn't have enough strength to pull the bow to its maximum potential and I was not strong enough to stabilise the bow to aim.

Immediately I thought to myself "I'm just not cut out for this sport. Why am I doing this? What is the point of continuing this when I'm just going to fail time and time again?" The more I thought about it, the faster the tears welled up in my eyes and in no time, I started to have an emotional breakdown in front of my coach. It was then when he knelt down to my height, gripped my shoulders tight, and looked me in the eyes, telling me that everything happens for a reason and this is just the beginning. At that period of time, I never really understood what he meant but he said that I would get it sooner or later.

Spurred on by my coach, I decided that I should give archery another chance. Another chance to not just prove to the others that I could do it, but more importantly, to prove to myself I could do it, that nothing was impossible. Since then, I would come to the field every Saturday and Sunday from 11 to 6 and train. I was running on pure willpower and every time I thought of giving up, I kept thinking of the very first time I shot my six arrows. I consistently reminded myself that I did not want to be mocked at and that I would bring prove the others and myself wrong.

After four months of intensive training, my first competition came. As much as I was nervous, I was rather confident that this would be my chance to prove myself. Indeed, in my very first archery competition, I managed to clinch the

championship title for the under 10 category, eliminating those that were physically stronger and more experienced than I was.

In that infinite moment when I received my trophy, I truly did believe that everything happens for a reason. The reason why I failed so badly at the start, was so that I could be give myself a chance to work on my mistakes, to pull myself up from the fall and to find the my inner strength, to give me the reason to keep me hanging on and to inch myself bit by bit towards the end success and to make me a better person, a better person with a stronger belief in life.

Everything happens for a reason. This I believe.